

10. NOTE ON THE LEPIDOPTERA OF ASTOVE ATOLL

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Writing in 1911, J. C. F. Fryer, who had visited Astove as a member of the 1908 Percy Sladen Trust Expedition to the Indian Ocean, stated: "The time I spent on Astove was insufficient to properly investigate its structure and therefore the flora and fauna were quite neglected"; and "insects were very numerous and it was a matter of great regret that few could be taken; butterflies were more common than on any other island and comprised one species, the beautiful Precis rhadama, not noted elsewhere".

On 8 March 1967 the writer spent five hours on the west coast of Astove, at Grand Anse, which he devoted to collecting butterflies. These appeared to be as numerous as at the time of Fryer's visit. As, with the exception of Fryer and the writer, none of the collectors who have visited the Aldabra group of islands (Assumption, Cosmoledo and Astove), including W. L. Abbott in 1892, A. Voeltzkow in 1902, E. G. B. Meade-Waldo in 1905, C. Prola in 1953, G. Cherbonnier in 1959 and H. Legrand in 1956 and 1959, visited Astove, it is thought desirable to publish a list of the species already recorded on the atoll. It is, however, hardly necessary to point out that this list could certainly be improved by a more thorough investigation. Thus the Royal Society party which visited Astove in 1968 collected Acraea ranavalona, Acraea terpsichore legrandi, Junonia clelia epiclelia, Colotis evanthides, Syntarucus pirithous (= telicanus) and the hesperiid Pelopidas mathias Fabr., which is a new record for the atoll (pers. comm., Dr T. G. Howarth, British Museum (Natural History) and the account in Bayne and others (1970)).

NOCTUIDAE

<u>Bryophilopsis nesta</u> (Bainbrigge Fletcher)	Collected by Lionnet
<u>Tarache malgassica</u> (Mabille)	Collected by Fryer

PIERIDAE

<u>Belenois aldabrensis</u> (Holland)	Collected by Fryer
<u>Belenois grandidieri</u> form <u>voeltzkowi</u> (Karsch) (see Bernardi 1954)	Collected by Lionnet
<u>Colotis evanthides</u> (Holland)	Collected by Lionnet

DANAIDAE

<u>Danaus chrysippus</u> (Linnaeus)	Collected by Lionnet
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ACRAEIDAE

<u>Acraea ranavalona</u> Boisduval	Collected by Lionnet
<u>Acraea terpsichore legrandi</u> Carcasson	Collected by Lionnet

NYMPHALIDAE

<u>Junonia rhadama</u> (Boisduval)	Collected by Fryer and noted by Lionnet
<u>Junonia clelia epiclelia</u> (Boisduval)	Collected by Fryer and Lionnet
<u>Phalanta phalantha aethiopica</u> (Rothschild and Jordan)	Collected by Lionnet

Fryer also reported that he had noticed Colotis (Teracolus) pernotatus (Butler), a synonym of C. etrida (Boisduval), on Astove. However, since according to Legrand Fryer mistook Colotis evanthides (Holland) on Aldabra for the former species, this record is doubtful.

Acknowledgements

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